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handiwork. He expresses the hope that the book may stimulate greater interest in museum collections, and sharpen the eyes of the young when they are in fields where other finds await discovery. After treating in the first 80 pages the paleolithic and neolithic periods, Mr. Schwantes shows how comparative philology supplemented the labours of those scientific men who have sought in the ground for remains that throw some light, at least, on early history. He gives examples of similar words expressing the same idea in languages of Asia and Europe, and the inferences drawn from these similarities. The second half of the book is given to the Bronze age and later periods before and a little after the dawn of the Christian era, including the Roman occupancy of Germany. The illustrations are chiefly photographs or drawings of finds and are briefly described in the text. The book is calculated to interest young readers in this study.

Die Russische Polarfahrt der "Sarja" 1900-1902. Aus den hinterlassenen Tagebüchern von Baron Eduard von Toll. Herausgegeben von Baronin Emmy von Toll. iv and 635 pp., 48 Illustrations, 4 Tables, and Index. Georg Reimer, Berlin, 1909. Price M. 14.

The book contains the diary of the lamented polar explorer published by his widow after all hope of his return had been abandoned. Its records, together with those found by the rescue expedition on Bennett Land as the last message from the unfortunate author, add many valuable data to our knowledge of the countries along the north coast of Asia in general, and more especially of the Taimyr Peninsula and the archipelago of the New Siberian Islands. Speaking of that enormous peninsula which extends through 5° of latitude and 35° of longitude, an area equal to that of France and Spain combined, the author suggests five divisions which, from West to East, he calls Minin Land between the rivers Yenisei and Piasina, Middendorf Land between Piasina and Taimyr, Tcheljuskin Peninsula the part which projects farthest north, east of that, the Laptev Peninsula, projecting farthest east, and after that Prontchishtchev Land down to the banks of the Chatanga River, thus basing the nomenclature upon the names of those who discovered or explored the respective regions.

The most surprising fact about this large country is that it is almost entirely uninhabited, in spite of a comparatively rich fauna that would perfectly suffice, during the summer, to support a migratory population similar to other districts in those latitudes. The author finds an explanation of this anomaly in the location of the peninsula away from the large rivers of Siberia which carry driftwood, whereas the rivers of the peninsula, rising beyond or very near the northern tree line, are devoid of it; and in the direction of the prevailing winds and currents along the coast which prevent the collection of drift, that might be carried there from the mouths of the large rivers, along its shores. Geologically the peninsula was found to include three systems of mountains, one each of mezozoic, paleozoic, and archæan age. They are all strongly dislocated, worn down, and generally lowered by the sinking of the land, which recently, however, has given place to another uplift, as evidenced by terraces with postpliocene mollusks in the Minin and Middendorf Bays. Glacial scratches, boulders, and moraine deposits prove an extension of the glacial period over the western half of the peninsula.

During the second winter, spent on the island of Kotelnoi, proof was found for a geological relationship of the New Siberian Islands with the Werchojansk Mts. and the mountains west of the Lena River. The whole archipelago forms part of an immense fault of which the plateau of Kotelnoi represents the oldest terrace, with the same respective order of rocks on the main land to the south, as on the islands to the north, of it. The pronounced increase, from south to north, of the intensity of the geological disturbances on the continent and the archipelago, along characteristic tectonic lines, seems to offer an explanation of Nansen's "deeps" in the polar sea, as the location of the continental terraces observed by Nansen corresponds to the direction and type of the dislocations found by Baron Toll, and their boundaries intersect each other at the same angles as do the tectonic lines of the New Siberian Islands.

The hypothesis is, therefore, offered that the origin of the Arctic Ocean dates from the tectonic disturbances at the end of the Tertiary which created the conditions for a glaciation of the polar regions by raising barriers which cut off the warm ocean currents from the South. The types of glaciation in northeastern Asia, owing to the dryness of the climate, differ from those of northern Europe, especially in the formation of *névé* which is often transformed into regular fossil ice strata occupying a definite geological position in the series of postpliocene sediments. They are not, however, identical with the mammoth beds, as the mammoth must have died out at the beginning of the period of their formation. As the probable cause of the extinction of the mammoth, Baron Toll seems inclined to consider, not so much the change of climate, as the arrival in those regions of other animals, possibly insects which, as the tse-tse fly in Africa with regard to cattle, might have proved disastrous to this one species, while others, like the reindeer, which were immune to it, were able to adapt themselves to the new climatic conditions.

That the last stage in the geological history of this region must have been a transgression of the ocean from the northeast has been proven by Baron Toll's discovery, on Bennett Land, of a post-tertiary fauna analogous to that of the New Siberian Islands. This archipelago, after having lost its permanent ice cover in the geological present, is now in a process of growth by the accumulation of sand bars in the sounds between the islands which will eventually re-establish the former connection of the islands with the mainland which Baron Toll's collections from Bennett Island have so fully proven.

It is a loss to science that so courageous and scholarly an explorer should not have been spared to work up the results of his observations. Nobody who has read the book will be able to lay it aside without regretting his untimely death.

M. K. G.

Das Reich der Wolken. Von Carl Kassner. (Wissenschaft und Bildung Series.) Pp. 156, Figs. and 6 Charts. Quelle und Meyer, Leipzig, 1909. Price, M. 1, linen, M. 1.60.

The title of Professor Kassner's new book naturally suggests Ley's "Cloudland" of fifteen years ago, but "Das Reich der Wolken" covers a much wider range of subjects than the former. In fact, we have in this attractive little volume as complete a discussion of what the Germans so well call "der Kreislauf des Wassers," as most teachers and students of Meteorology are likely to need. The author has read widely. He has arranged his material logically. He has written clearly and concisely. The book is thoroughly interesting, and not at all a mere dry compilation of all that is now known regarding the moisture of the atmosphere. Such a volume has been much needed. So rapid has been the recent advance in our knowledge of this branch of Meteorology that it has been difficult, even for a conscientious teacher, anxious to keep his instruction "up to date," to read the numerous publications which deal with the subject. Professor Kassner's little book is, therefore, sure of a warm welcome. It in no way inter-